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No. 7

A. V. Payne

No 201 Walnut

Mrs M. Phair

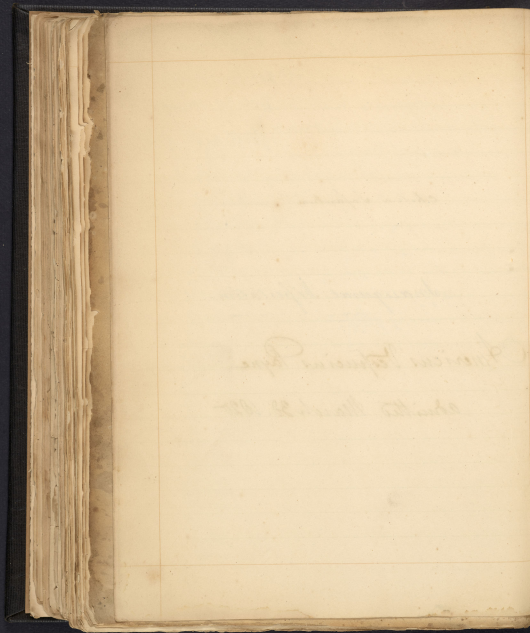
Nov. 8. Oct. 25th

*Cholera Infantum*

*Inaugural Dissertation.*

Americus Vespucius Payne

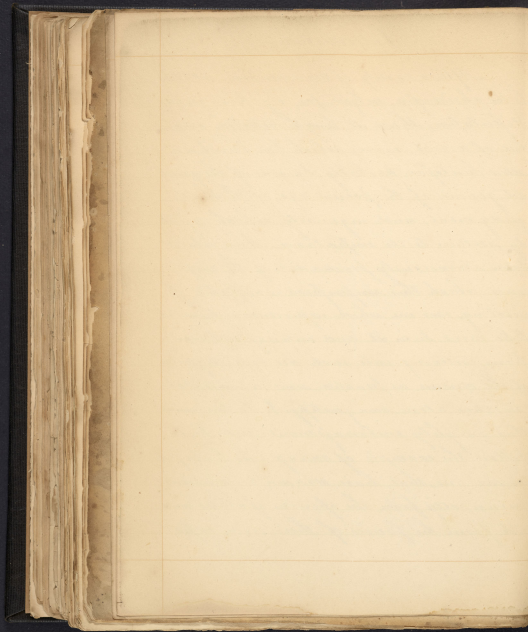
admitted March 30. 1820



## Introduction.

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After a variety of considerations relative to the choice of a subject for my Inaugural Dissertation, I have at length selected one out of a vast many which has been handled hitherto, probably, by some of the greatest geniuses of the present age with that judgment, and ingenuity, which reflect glory upon its importance. And whilst I am strenuously persuaded of the influence which this impression is capable of exerting, over one whose experience is limited like mine, I am at once entirely deterred from entering into such an investigation of the disease as practice, and repeated observation, alone, can justify. So, to surmount this mighty embarrassment will be, to follow the example of many who have preceded me, that have drawn conclusions principally from the opinion of others and not from the fruits of their own expe





science.

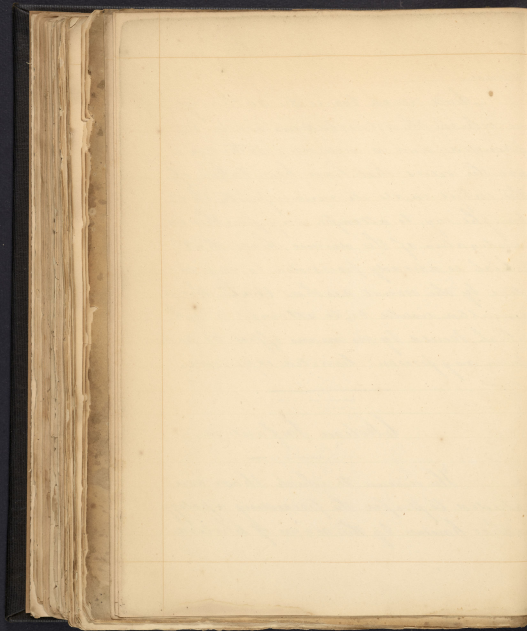
And such too is the authority on which these conclusions are to be founded; and so wide and extensive are the views that have been taken of the subject in all its various parts, that, I might say, to attempt any further investigation of the disease, than that which is already presented to my notice by the several authors that I have consulted, would be, to attempt a task which, I could by no means expect, at least, from my present limited experience.

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### Cholera Infantum.

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The disease to which I have concluded to prefix the preceding apology is that known by the name of Cholera

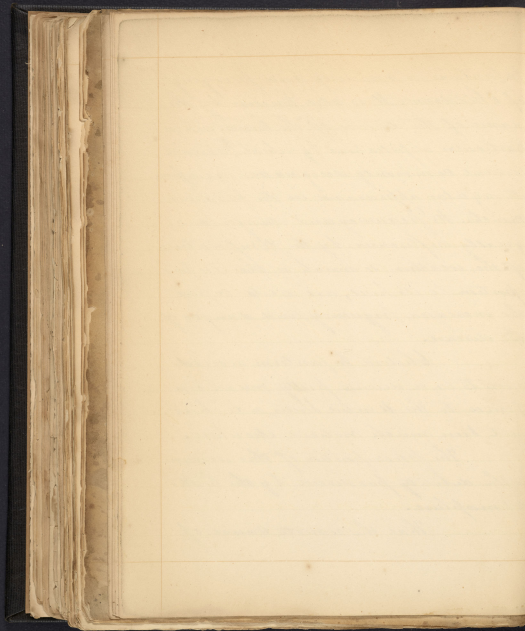


Infantum, or "vomiting and purging of Children". It is also known by the name of the disease of "the season". These particular appellations by which <sup>the</sup> disease is most commonly designated arise from its regular appearance in the Summer months. Its frequency, and danger, are greatly influenced by the temperature of the weather, so much so, that in proportion to its heat, are we to expect the increased frequency, and danger of the disease.

Cholera Infantum would seem to be a disease pretty much confined to the United States, or it has not been much noticed elsewhere.

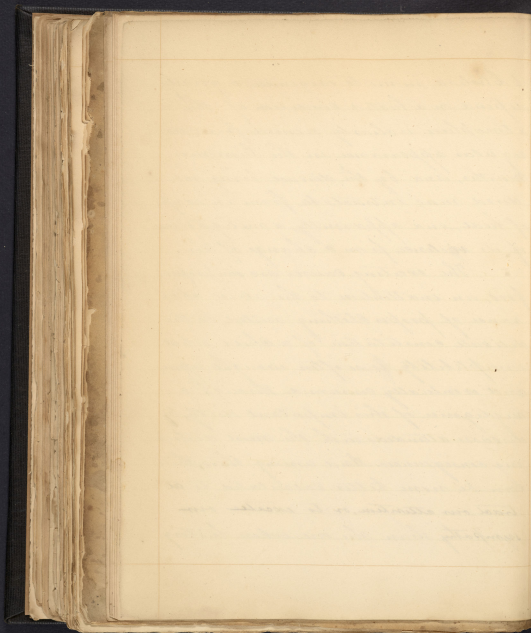
The predisposition of this disease is the ability produced by the heat of the atmosphere.

That the remote cause of



of Cholera seems to originate or greatly depend on a heated condition of the atmosphere is clearly evinced from its regular appearance in the Summer months, and by the disease being rendered more intractable from an excess of heat, and apparently, a mitigation of its violence from a change of air.

The exciting causes are improper food, an inattention to the strict observance of proper clothing suited to the delicate constitution of a Child whose susceptibility is so often wrought upon, and eventually consumed through a negligence of this important duty, by diseases attended with the most distressing consequences. And among these, there can be none better calculated to attract our attention, or to excite our sympathy than the one whose history



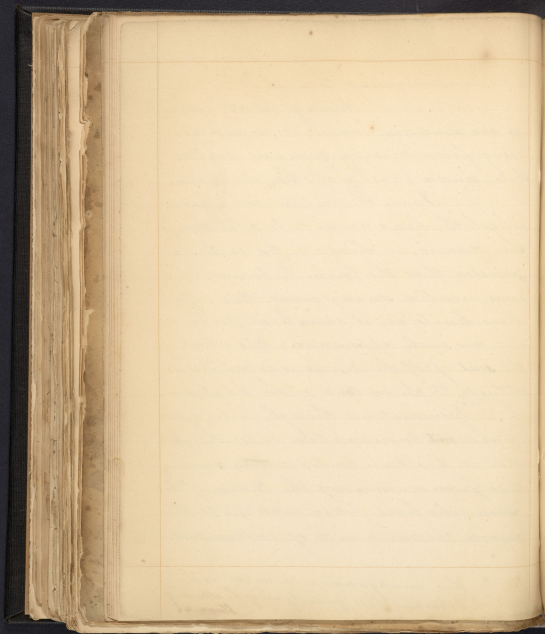
from endeavouring to relate.

Among the other causes are dentition, worms, Miasma arising from marshy grounds, Acrida bite, and a variety of other imitations.

From the violent manners in which the head seems to be affected in this disease, we should be led to the conclusion that the Brain laboured under some morbid derangement. But, dissections, heretofore, it seems, have pointed out no such appearance. But, that the seat of the disease was confined entirely to the contents of the abdomen.

I understand though, from some more recent investigations into this fact that it has been contradicted, and that from examining the Brain of Children who have fallen victims to this disease evident marks of inflammation

\* These investigations were made a the  
Alms house last year by one of the attending  
Surgeons

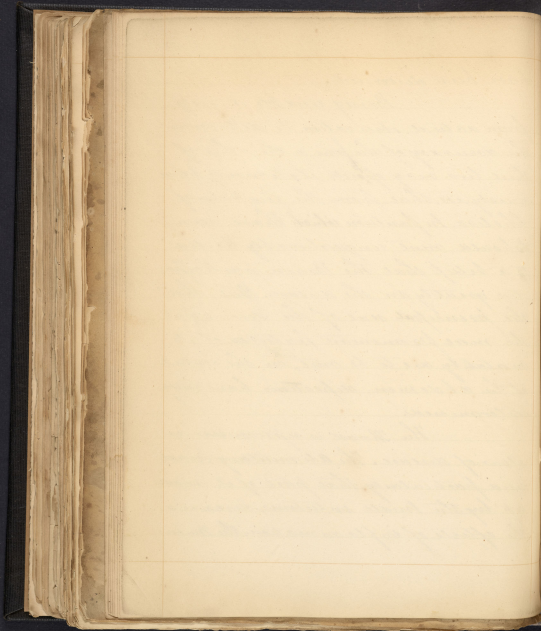




have been discovered.

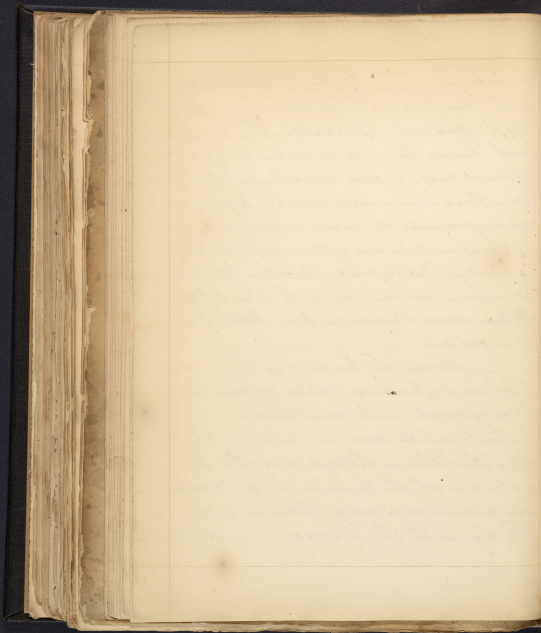
Being unable myself, from actual observation to determine the accuracy of the one, or the other of these two very opposite statements, I have merely add, that, from the few cases of Cholera Infantum which I have seen I should most unquestionably be led to a belief that the Brain participates greatly in the disease. But, that the principal seat of the disease, and the more prominent features of its mortality are to be met <sup>with</sup> in the contents of the abdomen, dissections have fully determined.

The Thorax is represented as clear of disease. The Alimentary Canal and particularly, that part of it made up by the small intestines, discovers the effects of inflammation, the Mucous



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membrane seems chiefly to be affected,  
on the surface of this a number of  
livid spots are observable. The Stom-  
ach shows the same marks. The per-  
itoneal Coat is, also, sometimes affect-  
ed. There is also, considerable Hepatic  
derangement, the Liver is uniformly  
enlarged, it is also, often indurated,  
generally flabby, and flexile. The Gall  
Bladder is distended with bile. Of the  
Spleen, and Pancreas but little has  
been said.

From the history of the disease,  
Cholera Infantum rotunda appears very  
nearly allied to the intestinal com-  
plaints which occur in more advanced  
life. That this is the case, and that the  
affection of the Liver is a subsequent  
complaint occurring through sym-  
pathy with the Stomach, is evident



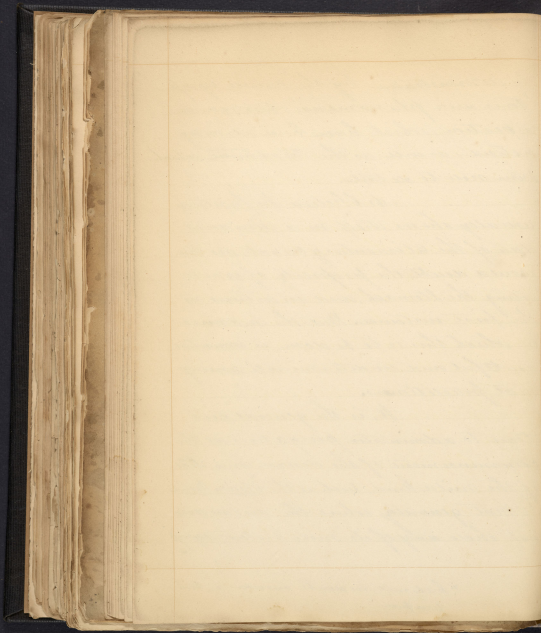
by demonstration by the causes, symptoms, and phenomena observed in digestion, which have been already noticed; as well as the treatment which I am now to detail.

As Cholera Infantum usually shows itself in a diseased state of the alimentary canal, no one would doubt the propriety of evacuating the stomach, and in certain instances the first instance. But the manner in which this is to be done is somewhat doubtful and undetermined among most practitioners.

It is the general custom to administer purgatives at the commencement of the disease and those of the mild kind, such as the *Oleum Ricini*.

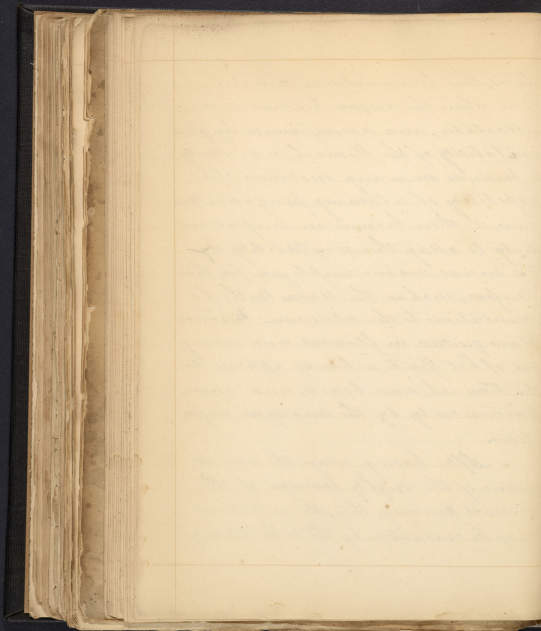
Most generally where the disease does not show any of its more violent symptoms.

\* I believe no doubt answers a better purpose.



toms, this treatment will answer.  
 But when the disease becomes more  
 intractable, and accompanied by great  
 irritability of the Stomach, so as utterly  
 to preclude in many instances the  
 possibility of retaining purgative me-  
 -dics, it then becomes an important  
 duty to allay this irritability by  
 the usual means employed for that  
 purpose, such as the Warm Bath, fo-  
 -mentations to the abdomen; Riced  
 Cloves quilted in flannel, and wrang-  
 -out of hot Spirits, or bandy applied to  
 the Stomach, and bowels, and more  
 particularly by the Anodyne injec-  
 -tions.

After having allayed the irascible  
 nature of this Mighty Sovereign of the  
 Animal Economy, then, the intestines  
 may be evacuated by the exhibition of

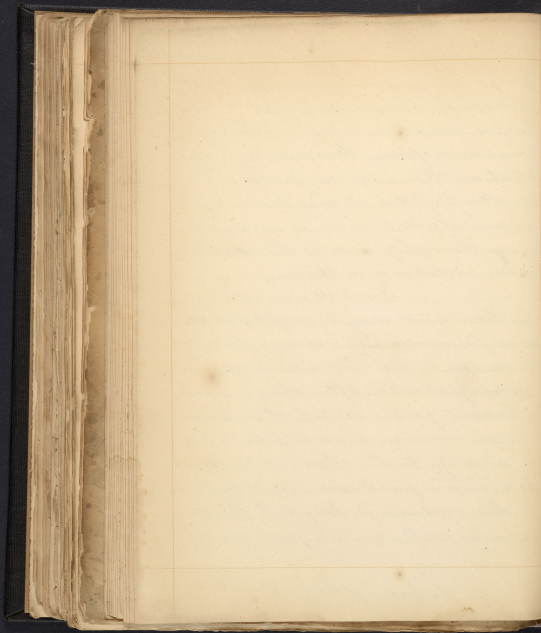




purgatives, and among such <sup>are</sup> are most appropriate and best adapted to this purpose, seems to be a combination of calomel and opium, the advantages of which are that by its insipidity and smallness of dose, it may be easily administered, moreover, it evacuates very thoroughly, and as the ~~sometimes~~ abates irritation and Spasm.

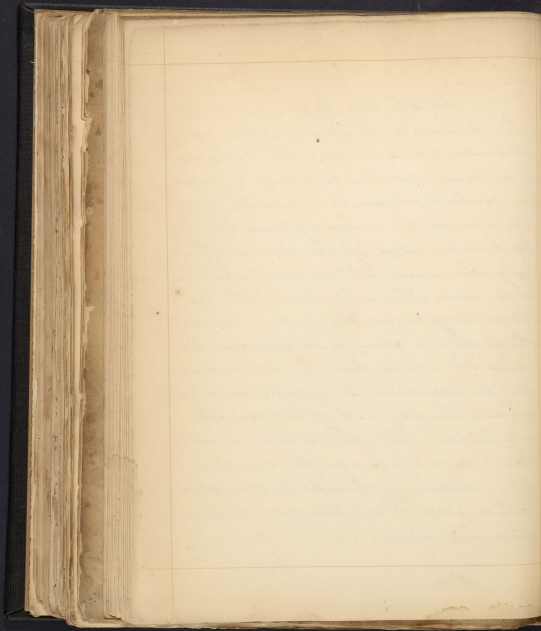
How well never, though, this treatment may be adapted to the more favourable and ordinary forms of the disease, it will not admit of universal application. Often there is such vehement gastric distress, that purgation and emesis are inadmissible, and in addition to this there is considerable heat <sup>and firm</sup> and a quick and irritable pulse. In these instances puking with Speacuanha, no doubt, merits a great deal of

\* The fever is of the remitting kind.



attention.

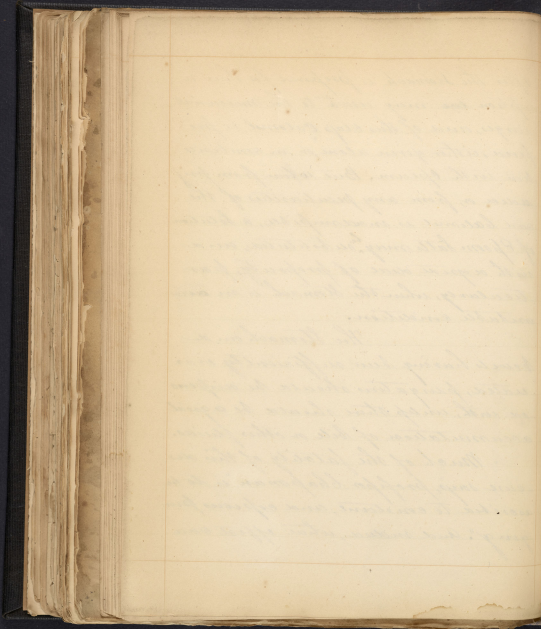
In Cholera Infantum like other diseases of the bowels when inflammation is present & S. promises to do more, and has certainly a more undoubted claim to a priority of attention in the management of this particular stage of the disease than any other mode of treatment. In this, as in some other affections of the alimentary Canal, the pulse is depressed, which would seem to discourage the use of the lancet, but, the phenomena of distention, and other symptoms, evidently indicate the propriety of bleeding. It will be well, though, to bear in mind that here, as in every other case of a like nature, it should be directed with a great <sup>deal</sup> of caution, and accurate discrimination.



After the Stomach is prepared for their reception we may resort to the mercurial purges, and of this class Calomel is preferred, either given alone, or in combination with Opium. But when from prolixity or, from any peculiarities of the case Calomel is inadmissible, a solution of Epsom salts may <sup>be</sup> substituted, and with a great deal of propriety, particularly, when the Stomach is in an irritable condition.

The Stomach and bowels having been sufficiently evacuated, purgatives should be dispensed with, unless there should be a great accumulation of bile or other fluids.

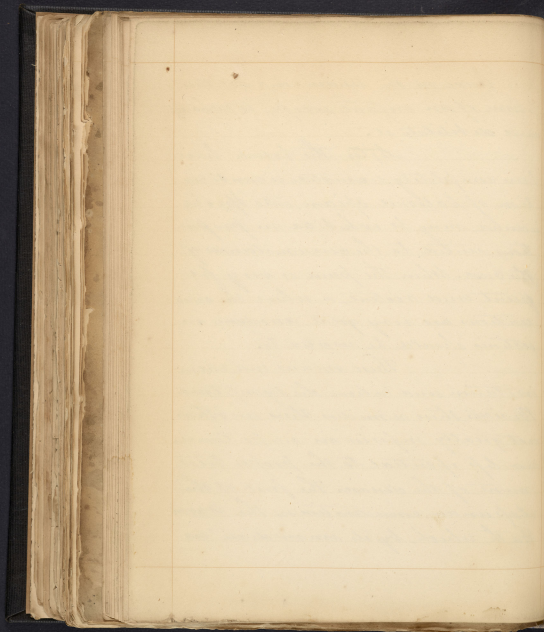
Much of the fatality of this disease says, perhaps Chapman "is to be ascribed to constancy, and copious purging". And indeed, what effect can



thus leave on the tender and delicate frame of an infant except, to exchange and debilitate it.

After the bowels have been completely evacuated, a combination of calomel, Opium, and Spesser may be exhibited in proportions suited to the circumstances of the case. When the pain is very frequent and violent, or where the evacuations are very great, anodyne injections should be resorted to.

These means will calm irritation and relieve the symptoms. Besides these remedies there are others not greatly inferior in importance, nor less essential to the proper treatment of the disease. The first of this class under consideration is, the Warm Bath, which, by its immediate ac-

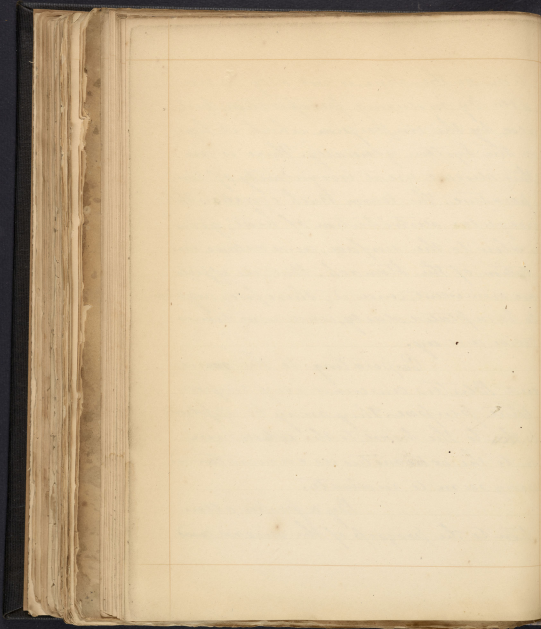




-tion on the skin, is not only service-  
-able by inducing perspiration, but  
also, by the impression which it has  
on the System generally. There is in  
this disease great irregularity of tem-  
-perature. The Warm Bath equalises this  
irregular distribution of heat, gives  
a glow to the surface, and calms irri-  
-tation of the Stomach. But, its effects  
are evanescent, and it, therefore, requires  
to be repeated daily, and sometimes  
twice a day.

Cooperating to the same  
end Blisters answer a very impor-  
-tant purpose. They may be applied  
to ~~the~~ the breast, to the ~~extremities~~ <sup>extremities</sup>,  
or to the extremities as circumstances  
may seem to indicate.

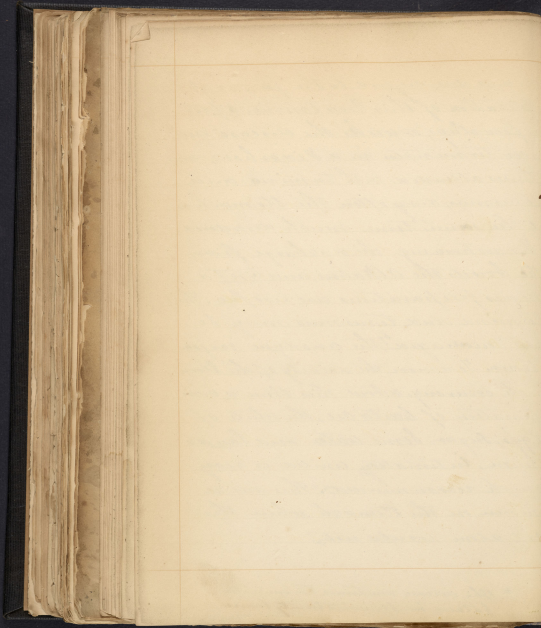
By a proper atten-  
-tion to the progress of the disease, and



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and a due regard to the proper ap-  
plication of this treatment, after  
a few days, or weeks the disease usu-  
ally terminates in a diarrhoea, some-  
times attended with tormina and  
tenesmus, very often the stomach is  
at the same time much disordered.

To restrain the discharge from  
the bowels the Alkaline, and Oreta-  
cious preparations are useful. The  
tormina, and tenesmus may be  
best managed by the anodyne re-  
medies. To remove the acidity of the stom-  
ach occurring at this time a com-  
bination of Castor Oil, the white of  
Eggs, Sugar, Lime water and Lau-  
dum, intimately united is very  
much recommended. This will re-  
main on the stomach where the  
oil alone would not.

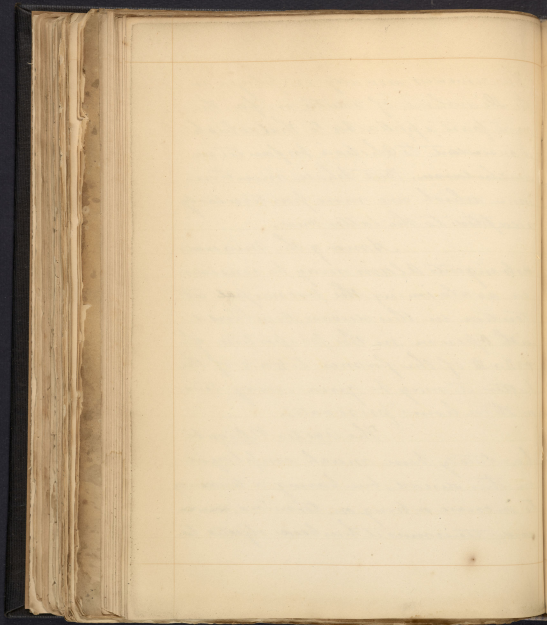
\* The disease sometimes terminates  
fatally, in four and twenty hours.



The remedies usually employed in the Diarrhoea of adults, are, for the most part applicable to that which is incident to Cholera Infantum in ~~in~~ Chilorum. But I shall mention some which are more particularly adapted to the latter case.

Among the Mineral Astringents Alum may be considered as claiming the principal attention in this disease, combined with Opium in the proportion of  $\text{gr. II or III}$  of the former to  $\frac{1}{4}$  or  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the latter, it may be given every two, or three hours "pro re nata".

The Acetis Plumbi has lately been much employed in this disease, but having a tendency to increase or bring on tormina, ~~and~~ and tenesmus it has been objected to.

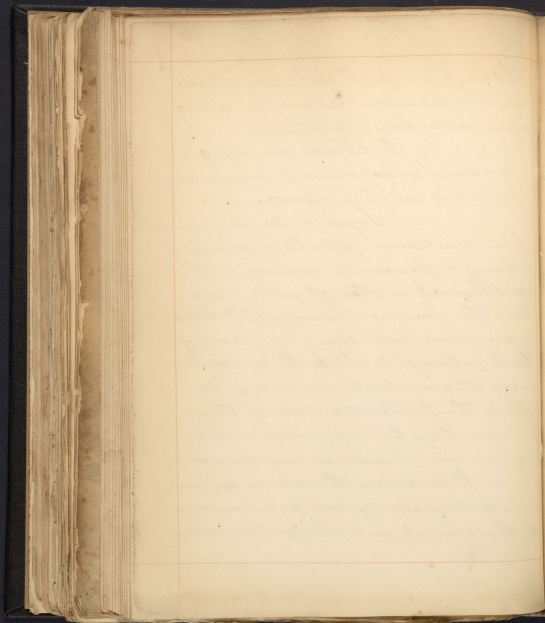


Chalk, Kino, and <sup>an</sup> infusion of Galls and Sassafras are useful either alone or in combination.

Columbo in infusion or powder, has acquired a deserved reputation in this disease.

Logwood in infusion, mentioned by Dr. Chapman as being a favourite remedy with Dr. Sharpick is often of great service. But the favourite remedy of Dr. Chapman is an infusion of the root of the Scurberry, "To check the inordinate evacuations which commonly attend the protracted cases of this disease, says he, no remedy has ever done so much good in my hands."

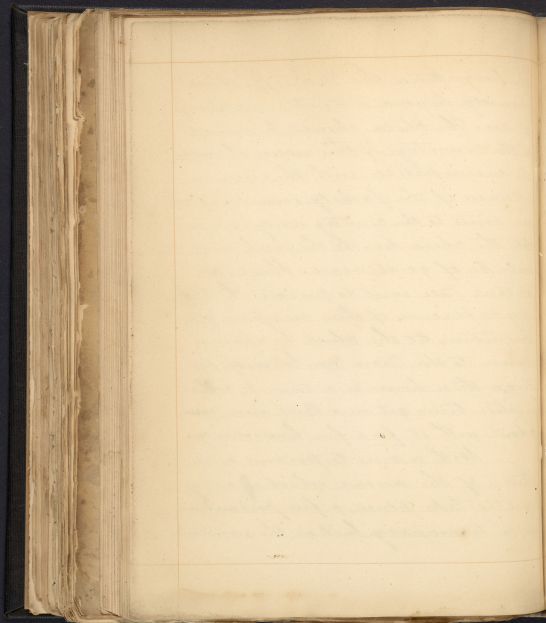
But when the disease originates as it usually does, as a consequence of the crowded and heated atmosphere





of large cities the most effectual remedy, beyond a doubt, is a change of air. The Child should be carried to the Country. If this advice should be incompatible with the circumstances of the family, even occasional visits to the Country daily, so as to let the Child breathe the fresh air, will be of great avail. Should an obstacle still exist to prevent the happy influence of these necessary admonitions, let the Child be carried down to the River Banks daily for two, or three hours at a time. Or what is still better get in a Boat, and row about with it for a few hours daily.

With a view to prevent a return of the disease, which is very apt to take place, a few precautions will be necessary. Such as the avoidance



of early weaning, at least, within the year. The daily use of the Cold Bath, both with a view to its tonic, as well as to its cleansing properties.

When the Cold Bath cannot be used, the Warm Bath may be substituted in its place. Flannel, and woollen stockings should be worn.

As regards diet, the eating of unripe fruits, more particularly, should be avoided.

Milk with some of the farinaceous articles form a proper diet.

As dentition, if not a cause of this disease is well executed to aggravate it when it does exist, the gums should be examined frequently, and if the teeth should appear to be retarded by them, they should be freely lanced.

